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COCOM DOC. 3771

Date: November 13, 1959

MEMORANDUM FROM THE UNITED STATES DELEGATIONCONCERNINGA BELGIAN PROPOSAL TO EXPORT ELECTRODES TO RUMANIA

Reference: COCOM Documents 3735 and 3757

In COCOM Document 3735, the Delegate of Belgium stated that the Belgian authorities have received a request for license to export to Rumania 15,000 kgs of electrodes, sheathed for arc welding, and requested the views of other delegations as to whether or not these electrodes are covered by <sup>the</sup> definition of Item 1661.

The United States authorities have given careful consideration to the question raised by the Belgian Delegate and as a result thereof are of the opinion that "electrodes sheathed for arc welding" are included under Item 1661(b).

It is the opinion of the United States authorities that, as related to welding rods and electrodes, the word "sheathe" means to cover the rod with a non-metallic substance. This may be done by coating. Usually this coating acts as a flux which, during the welding operation, forms a protection around the molten metal, thus preventing its oxidation. Whether it be coated on the welding rod or used on the parts to be welded, the use of fluxes is a necessary function in the welding operation. The usual manner of coating is performed by mixing the flux with water, thus forming a paste which is then brushed evenly on the rod. The United States authorities are of the opinion that this preparation does not result in the production of a more highly-developed welding rod or electrode.

In commenting upon the reference by the Belgian Delegate to Interpretative Note No. 6, the United States authorities are of the opinion that the fact that Interpretative Note No. 6, in defining semi-fabrications, specifically includes bare welding rods with rods used for other purposes, does not exclude electrodes or coated welding rods from coverage. Bare or coated welding rods or electrodes do not differ in usage and the alloying elements may be the same. When a bare welding rod or electrode is used, the flux is usually applied to the face of the metals to be joined, thereby affording protection against oxidation of the molten metal.

The United States authorities also point out that in paragraph 2 of Interpretative Note No. 6, the heading "Semi-fabricated forms" is followed by the parenthetic statement "whether or not coated, plated, drilled or punched". Accordingly, it seems apparent to the United States authorities that welding rods (electrodes) both bare and coated, were intended to be covered by the definition, since to include one and not the other would be an inconsistency leading to the frustration of embargo objectives.

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